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# Message Text

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20
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /078 W
---------- 036521
R 300802Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6359
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
475-*,/AMEMBASSY FREETOWN 1311
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 3304
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, NI, SG
SUBJ: SENEGAL AGREES TO PARTICIPATE IN SECOND WORLD FESTIVAL
OF BLACK AND AFRICA ARTS (FESTAC)
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REF: DAKAR 4704

1. SUMMARY: SENEGAL AND NIGERIA HAVE AGREED TO END DISPUTE OVER ARAB PARTICPATION IN BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL. JOINT COMMUNIQUE REPORTS GOS AGREEMENT TO PARTICPATE IN FESTAC IN CONFORMANCE WITH EXISTING DIRECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE (IFC). SENEGALESE SUGGEST THAT THEY DROPPED THREAT OF BOYCOTT OVER (NORTH AFRICAN) ARAB PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVAL COLLOQUIM SINCE NO ARABS HAVE APPLIED TO TAKE PART. END SUMMARY.

2. ON RETURN AUG. 25 FROM LAGOS, GOS MINISTER OF CULTURE SENE ANNOUNCED THAT SENEGAL WILL BE REPRESENTED AFTER ALL AT FESTAC IN LAGOS NEXT JANUARY. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO END CONTROVERSY IN WHICH SENEGAL HAD THREATENED BOYCOTT IN PROTEST OVER INCLUSION OF ARAB AFRICANS IN COLLOQUIUM. SENE TRACED SENEGALO-NIGERIAN RAPPROCHEMENT TO JULY 20 DAKAR VISIT BY NIGERIAN AUTHOR WOLE SOYINKA (REFTEL). SENE SAID NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO HAD BEEN DISTRESSED OVER SENEGALESE DECISION TO WITHDRAW, IN VIEW OF "INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION" OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND HIS "IMMENSE" CONTRIBUTION TO BLACK CULTURE.

3. AUG. 26 GOVT-OWNED LE SOLEIL PUBLISHED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH DECLARED THAT OBASANJO AND SENGHOR HAD AGREED THAT, IN SPIRIT OF AFRICAN FRATERNITY, "DYNAMIC COMPROMISE" MUST BE FOUND. COMMUNIQUE SAID SENE HAD MET WITH FESTIVAL DIRECTOR FINGESI TO DISCUSS "PRINCIPLES" AND "PRACTICAL REALITIES;" ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLE, ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, IS THAT "FESTAC IS CONCEIVED FOR ALL WORLD'S BLACK PEOPLES." HOWEVER, ON LEVEL OF "PRACTICAL REALITIES," FESTIVAL IS OPEN TO OAU COUNTRIES, BLACK GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE AFRICA AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY OAU. THESE REALITIES ARE SAID TO CORRESPOND TO IFC DECISIONS WHICH REMAIN IN FORCE. COMMUNIQUE INDICATED FESTAC TITLE (AS "BLACK AND AFRICAN" EVENT) WILL BE MAINTAINED, THAT SENEGAL WILL PARTICIPATE CONFORMING TO FESTIVAL PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES AND IFC DIRECTIVES, AND MISUNDERSTANDING "OVER PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL REALITIES" IS RESOLVED.

4. NOT ONLY HAVE SENEGALESE ABANDONED THREAT TO BOYCOTT FESTIVAL, THEY HAVE APPARENTLY ACCEPTED NIGERIA'S REMOVAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE



SENEGALESE FESTAC SEC-GEN, ALIOUNE DIOP. SENE SAID IT WAS PERMISSIBLE FOR NIGERIA TO DECLINE TO RECEIVE ON ITS SOIL ANY OFFICIAL WHOSE PRESENCE IT FOUND DISTURBING.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES SENEGALESE CONSIDER TALK OF "PRINCIPLES" VS. "PRACTIVAL REALITIES" TO BE CODE LANGUAGE FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT, WHILE OPEN INVITATION TO ALL (INCLUDING ARAB) OAU NATIONS REMAINS IN EFFECT, NO ARABS WILL IN FACT TAKE PART IN COLLOGUIUM.

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EVEN BEFORE FINGESI-SENE MEETING, NIGERIAN CHARGE IN DAKAR WAS POINTING OUT PRIVATELY THAT NO ARABS HAD YET APPLIED AND HINTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS IF ANY WERE TO DO SO. SENE ALSO ASSURED JOURNALISTS THAT CURRENT "REALITY" WAS THAT NO ARAB COUNTRY HAD RESPONDED TO INVITATION. "I CANNOT SAY WHAT SENEGAL WILL DO IF, BY CHANCE, AN ARAB COUNTRY WERE TO SEND A COMMUNICATION."

6. ASSUMING THIS INTERPRETATION VALID AND AGREEMENT IS RESPECTED, SENEGAL WILL HAVE PRESERVED SANCTITY OF FESTIVAL COLLOQUIUM AS "SUPREME MOMENT OF BLACK REFLECTION," AND SENEGALESE CAN TAKE POSITION THAT NIGERIANS HAD TO PLEAD WITH THEM TO PARTICIPATE. ON OTHER HAND, SENEGALESE HAVE TAKEN PUBLIC LICKING IN COMMUNIQUE WHICH LEAVES IMPRESSION THAT THEY CAPITULATED TO NIGERIANS. JOURNALISTS IN DAKAR WHO HAVE CARRIED ON SPIRITED CAMPAIGN AGAINST NIGERIA FOR MONTHS WERE NOTICEABLY TAKEN ABACK BY LATEST TWIST. LE SOLEIL EDITORIAL NOTED THAT COMMUNIQUE LEFT "MANY POINTS IN THE SHADOW," AND SAID "SATISFACTION (OVER ACCORD) WAS ENTIRELY CONJUNCTURAL," SINCE THERE WAS STILL NOTHING TO PRECLUDE ARAB PARTICIPATION. JOURNALIST COMMENTED THAT SENE'S STATEMENTS LEFT REPORTERS "HUNGRY AND UNSATISFIED...PERHAPS WE WILL KNOW MORE IN THE DAYS TO COME...(BUT) FOR THE MOMENT, SENEGAL WILL GO TO LAGOS." WRITER SOMEWHAT DUBIOUSLY CONCLUDED THAT, GOING "BEYOND THE DISILLUSIONMENT," AGREEMENT REPRESENTED VICTORY FOR DIPLOMACY "A L'AFRICAINE."
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